CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A electronic device network comprising

an electronic device having a power cord,

a display unit, and

a power detection and control system coupled to the power cord of the electronic device, the power detection and control system being housed in part within the display unit.

2. The network of claim 1 wherein the power detection and control system comprises a current sensor coupled to the power cord.

3. The network of claim 2 wherein the power detection and control system comprises a current-to-voltage converter coupled to the sensor.

4. The network of claim 3 wherein the power detection and control system comprises a voltage comparator coupled to the converter.

5. The network of claim 4 wherein the power detection and control system comprises a reference voltage output circuit coupled to the comparator.

6. The network of claim 5 wherein the power detection and control system comprises a micro-controller coupled to the comparator and the reference voltage output circuit.

7. The network of claim 6 wherein the electronic device is an A/V device.

8. The network of claim 6 wherein the electronic device is an analog device.

9. A electronic device network comprising

a controller,

an electronic device coupled to the controller, and

a current sensor coupled to the controller and to the electronic device.

10. The network of claim 9 wherein the sensor is coupled to the power cord of the electronic device.

11. The network of claim 9 wherein the controller is housed within a display unit.

12. The network of claim 9 further comprising a current-to-voltage converter coupled to the sensor.

13. The network of claim 12 further comprising a voltage comparator coupled to the converter.

14. The network of claim 13 further comprising a reference voltage output circuit coupled to the comparator wherein the controller is coupled to the comparator and the reference voltage output circuit.

15. The network of claim 9 wherein the electronic device is an A/V device.

16. The network of claim 9 wherein the electronic device is an analog device.

17. An A/V device network comprising

a display unit,

a plurality of A/V devices coupled to the display unit,

a micro-controller coupled to the A/V devices,

one or more current sensors coupled to the A/V devices,

a current to voltage converter coupled to the one or more current sensors and to the micro-controller,

a reference voltage generator coupled to the converter and the micro-controller, and

a voltage comparator coupled to the voltage generator, micro-controller and converter.

18. The network of claim 17 wherein the display unit is a TV.

19. The network of claim 17 wherein the A/V devices are analog devices.

20. A method comprising the steps of

identifying an electronic device to be controlled,

detecting the current being drawn by the device through its power cord,

converting the current level to an input voltage, and

comparing the input voltage to the threshold voltage to determine whether the input voltage is less than or greater than the threshold voltage.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of generating a threshold voltage corresponding to the device.

22. The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of sending a power on command to the device if the input voltage is less than the threshold voltage.

23. The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of repeating the steps of claim 20.

24. The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of sending a non-power on control command to the device if the input voltage is greater than the threshold voltage.

25. The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of storing the threshold voltage for each device in memory.

26. The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of retrieving the threshold voltage from memory.